

Edward M. Lambert, Jr.
Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Edward M. Lambert, Jr. was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick and Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary, Richard K. Sullivan, Jr, in February of 2011 to serve as the Commonwealth's Commissioner of Conservation & Recreation. In his role as Commissioner, he oversees the largest of EEA's six agencies, which manages the state's forests, parks, greenways, historic sites, seashores, reservoirs, and watersheds, and administers the many recreational activities and opportunities the Department offers to residents across the Commonwealth.

Prior to his leadership of DCR, Commissioner Lambert served as the first Executive Director of the Urban Initiative at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, which is a research center that focuses its work and efforts on a variety of urban policy issues and the provision of technical assistance and independent research to communities and private organizations throughout the state. In this role, Commissioner Lambert helped to form the Gateway Cities Coalition, which includes 11 older, urban cities whose Mayors and City Managers are now working cooperatively to revitalize their communities with the support of state leaders and policy makers. He successfully negotiated the establishment of the first satellite of the National Dropout Prevention Center (Clemson University) at UMass Dartmouth, which transformed the Urban Initiative into one of the region's most sought-after entities for support, research, and evaluations in the fields of education and dropout prevention. In his three years as Director of the Urban Initiative, Commissioner Lambert oversaw the successful implementation of several major research projects and the publication of nine ground-breaking research publications. In addition to this, Commissioner Lambert also served as an adjunct faculty member of the University's Department of Public Policy, where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in public management and public policy.

Commissioner Lambert also brings with him over 30 years of governmental and public management experience, having served twelve consecutive years as the Mayor of Fall River, Massachusetts, seven years as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives (representing the 8th Bristol District), and over twenty years on the Fall River School Committee (both as a member and as chairman while Mayor of the City). As Mayor, he worked on urban redevelopment projects, economic development initiatives, improving and building numerous schools, providing effective municipal services, and a range of other public policy issues, including the establishment the state's first bioserve in southeastern Massachusetts, which has protected approximately 14,000 acres of forests and wetlands. His accomplishments in public service have garnered significant attention and accolades from community-based and non-profit organizations throughout the region.

Aside from his career in the public sector, Commissioner Lambert also possesses experience as an administrator of a non-profit human service organization, having previously served as the Director of Social Services at Saint Vincent's Home in Fall River. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Southeastern Massachusetts University (UMass Dartmouth) and his Master's degree in Education (M.Ed) in Counseling at Bridgewater State College.